

February 18, 1926

GROTON'S OLDEST WOMAN EXPIRES

MRS. MARY SOVEREIGN, 99,
DIES FROM EFFECTS OF
CANCER

Mrs. Mary Sovereign, age 99, Groton's oldest lady, and head of five generations, died at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. Bert Warner, Friday night from the effects of a cancer, from which she has been suffering for the last two years. Although being of an advanced age, Mrs. Sovereign combatted the affliction with marked courage, and has only been disabled since Thanksgiving. Before being confined to her room, she was very active for one of her age, retaining her mental faculties to an amazing degree, attending many social activities and taking part in them. Two years ago she made a trip to Canada alone.

Mrs. Mary Sovereign was born in Canada, February 22, 1827, sixteen miles west of Ontario, on the shores of Lake Ontario. In 1854 she married Capt. F. Sovereign, a shipmaster on Lake Ontario. Four years later at Port Burwell, on Lake Ontario, their first child was born, now Mrs. Mary Locker.

In 1880 Mr. and Mrs. Sovereign immigrated to this state and settled near Ordway. There they proved up on land and lived a life of the pioneer until 1915 when Capt. Sovereign died at the ripe old age of 90 years. Mrs. Sovereign and her daughter conducted the farm for several years after the death of her husband.

The deceased was the head of five generations, Mrs. Mary Locker, Mrs. Bert Warner, Mrs. Nepsted and Kenneth, the only male member of the long chain of generations.

Despite her age of almost a century the years dealt kindly with Mrs. Sovereign. Up until two years ago when she first became afflicted with a cancer, she was as energetic and spry as a person of sixty. She retained remarkable possession of her five senses, her hearing being as keen, her eye sight as good as that of fifty years ago. Her memory through all the years, never failed her, and events of almost a century ago were as fresh in her memory as though happening yesterday.

Sunday the remains were taken to Columbia and laid to rest in the family burying ground, the funeral being conducted by Rev. Ray, of the local Methodist church.

She leaves to mourn her loss, her daughter, Mrs. Locker, a granddaughter, Mrs. Bert Warner, a great granddaughter, Mrs. Nepsted, of Oakes, N. D., and a great great grandson, Kenneth Nepsted.